



Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Polygon 027



July 2013

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY
APPENDIX B – INVENTORY AREA EVALUATION

Evaluation of Current Conditions:

1) Document and review any existing BLM wilderness characteristics inventory findings on file regarding the presence or absence of individual wilderness characteristics, using Form 1, below.

2) Consider relevant information regarding current conditions available in the office. Identify and describe any changes to the existing inventory information. Use interdisciplinary team knowledge, aerial photographs, field observations, maps, etc. and document the findings on Form 2, below. Document current conditions regarding wilderness characteristics, as opposed to potential future conditions.

Conduct field reviews as necessary to verify information and to ascertain current conditions. Reach conclusions on current conditions including boundaries, size of areas and presence or absence of wilderness characteristics. Fully explain the basis for each conclusion on Form 2, including any critical differences between BLM and citizen information.

Document the findings regarding current conditions for each inventoried area. Describe how the present conditions are similar to, or have changed from, the conditions documented in the original wilderness characteristics inventory. Document the findings on Form 2 for each inventory area. Cite to or attach data considered, including photographs, maps, GIS layers, field trip notes, project files, etc.

FORM 1

Documentation of BLM Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics inventory information on all or part of this area?

No **X** (Go to Form 2) **Yes** (If yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the unique identifiers for those areas.):

a) Inventory Source:

b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s):

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s):

d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s):

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record:

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory area is associated with the area, list each area and answer each question individually for each inventory area):

Inventory Source:

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier: **CO-010-027**

Acreage

(If the inventory area consists of subunits, list the acreage of each and evaluate each separately).

In completing steps (1)-(5), use additional space as necessary.

(1) Is the area of sufficient size? (If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check "Yes" and describe the exception in the space provided below),

Yes **X**

No

Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (describe the boundaries of the area--wilderness inventory roads, property lines, etc.):

Polygon 27 is located approximately 17 miles west / north west of Maybell, CO on the south side of Colorado State Highway 318. The Polygon's northern boundary is State Highway 318 and starts half of a mile west of the Little Snake River crossing. The west boundary is determined by State and private land. The southern boundary is mostly defined by privately owned land, part of the polygon touches Moffat County Road 10 on the most south western part of the polygon. The eastern boundary is also defined by privately owned land as well as another State owned parcel.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes **X**

No

N/A

Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation, and summary of major human uses/activities):

The area's natural integrity has not been compromised by the surrounding private land or the state highway running along its northern border. The area is covered by rolling hills and draws that are all covered in sagebrush. Evidence of hunting is present in the area.

(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes **X**

No

N/A

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for solitude):

The polygon is located behind a small ridge from State Highway 318 which hides its existence from inside of the polygon. There are no sign of human presence when inside of the unity, which provides and outstanding opportunity for solitude.

(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes **X**

No

N/A

Note: If "No" is checked for both 3 and 4 the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for question 5.

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation):

This area provides an outstanding opportunity for the following primitive and unconfined form of recreation: Bird Watching, Horseback Riding, Hunting, and Photography.

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?

Yes

No

X

N/A

Description:

Area is much like the surrounding areas, It has rolling hills, draws, and is mainly vegetated by sagebrush. The only thing that separates this polygon from the rest of the region is that it has not had its untrammelled nature.

Summary of Analysis*

Area Unique Identifier: CO-010-027

Summary

Results of analysis:

(Note: explain the inventory findings for the entirety of the inventory unit. When wilderness characteristics have been identified in an area that is smaller than the size of the total inventory unit, explain why certain portions of the inventory unit are not included within the lands with wilderness characteristics (e.g. the inventory found that certain parts lacked naturalness).

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? Yes ☒ No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? Yes ☒ No N/A
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Yes ☒ No N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values? Yes No ☒ N/A

Check one:

The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as lands with wilderness characteristics.

The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by (team members):

Cody Niehus / Recreation Intern

Date: June 27th, 2013

Ty Skoe / Recreation Intern

Date: June 27th, 2013

(Name, Title, Date)

Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

* This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY

APPENDIX C – ROUTE ANALYSIS¹

(Factors to consider when determining whether a route is a road² for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes.)

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Area Unique Identifier: **CO-010-027**

Route or Route Segment³ Name and/or Identifier: **LWC_27_Route 1**

(Include Transportation Plan Identifier, if known, and include route number supplied by citizen information, when available.)

I. LOCATION: Refer to attached map and BLM corporate data (GIS).
List photo point references (where applicable) or reference attached photo log:

Describe:

Route 1 is State Highway 318, the route is the entire northern boundary of the polygon.

II. ROUTE CONTEXT

A. Current Purpose⁴ (if any) of Route: (Examples: Rangeland/Livestock Improvements (stock tank, developed spring, reservoir, fence, corral), Inholdings (ranch, farmhouse), Mine

¹ This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.

² Road: An access route which has been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.

a. Improved and maintained – Actions taken physically by people to keep the road open to vehicle traffic. “Improved” does not necessarily mean formal construction. “Maintained” does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.

b. Mechanical means – Use of hand or power machinery or tools.

c. Relatively regular and continuous use – Vehicular use that has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources, access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities, or access roads to mining claims.

³ If a portion of a route is found to meet the wilderness inventory road criteria (see Part III) and the remainder does not meet these criteria (e.g., a cherry stem road with a primitive route continuing beyond a certain point), identify each segment and explain the rationale for the separate findings under pertinent criteria.

⁴ The purpose of a route is not a deciding factor in determining whether a route is a road for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes. The purpose of a route does provide context for factors on which such a determination may be based, particularly the question of whether maintenance of the route ensures relatively regular and continuous use. The purpose also helps to determine whether maintenance that may so far have been unnecessary to ensure such use would be approved by BLM when the need arises.

Site, Concentrated Use Site (camp site), Recreation, Utilities (transmission line, telephone, pipeline), Administrative (project maintenance, communication site, vegetation treatment)).

Describe:

Route is used as part of the state transportation system.

B. Right-of-Way (ROW):

1. Is there a ROW associated with this route?

Yes No Unknown **X**

2. If yes, what is the stated purpose of the ROW?

3. Is the ROW still being used for this purpose?

Yes No Unknown or N/A **X**

Explain:

III. WILDERNESS INVENTORY ROAD CRITERIA

A. Evidence of construction or improvement using mechanical means:

Yes **X** (if either A.1 *or* A.2 is checked "yes" below) No (if both A.1 *and* A.2 are checked "no" below)

1. Construction: (Is there evidence that the route or route segment was originally constructed using mechanical means?) Yes **X** No

Examples: Paved **X** Bladed Graveled Roadside Berms Cut/Fill Other

Describe:

Route is paved and devoid of wear and tear.

2. Improvements: (Is there evidence of improvements using mechanical means to facilitate access?) Yes **X** No If “yes”: by Hand Tools by Machine

Examples: Culverts Hardened Stream Crossings Bridges Drainage Barriers Other

Describe:

Route is a state highway that provides access from Maybell, CO to Vernal, UT.

B. Maintenance: (Is there evidence of maintenance that would ensure *relatively* regular and continuous use?): Yes **X** (if either B.1 *or* B.2 is checked “yes” below) No (if both B.1 *and* B.2 are checked “no” below)

1. Is there Evidence or Documentation of Maintenance using hand tools or machinery?
Yes **X** No If “yes”: by Hand Tools by Machine **X**

Explain:

Route is Maintained by Colorado Department of Transportation.

2. If the route or route segment is in good⁵ condition, but there is no evidence of maintenance, would mechanical maintenance with hand tools or machines be approved by BLM to meet the purpose(s) of the route in the event this route became impassable?
Yes **X** No

Explain

Route is maintained by Colorado Department of Transportation.

C. Relatively regular and continuous use: (Does the route or route segment ensure relatively regular and continuous use?) Yes **X** No

Describe evidence (e.g., direct, vehicles or vehicle tracks observed, or indirect, evidence of use associated with purpose of the route such as maintenance of facility that route accesses) and other rationale for whether use has occurred and will continue to occur on a *relatively* regular basis (i.e., regular and continuous use relative to the purpose(s) of the route).⁶

Route is a State Highway.

⁵ Good condition would be a condition that ensures regular and continuous use relative to the purposes of the route. Consider whether the route can be clearly followed in the field over its entire course and whether all or any portion of the route contains any impediments to travel.

⁶ Include estimate of travel rates for the stated purposes, e.g., trips/day or week or month or season or year or even multiple years in some facility maintenance cases.

IV. CONCLUSION:

Does the route or route segment⁷ meet the definition of a wilderness inventory road (i.e., are items III.A *and* III.B *and* III.C all checked yes)?

Yes **X** = Wilderness Inventory Road
inventory purposes

No = Not a road for wilderness

Explanation⁸:

Route is a paved state highway.

Evaluators:

Cody Niehus / Recreation Intern

Date: **6-27-2013**

Ty Skoe / Recreation Intern

Date **6-27-2013**

⁷ If part of the route meets the wilderness inventory road definition and the remainder does not, describe the segment meeting the definition and any remaining portion not meeting the definition and why.

⁸ Describe and explain rationale for any discrepancies with citizen proposals.

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY

APPENDIX C – ROUTE ANALYSIS⁹

(Factors to consider when determining whether a route is a road¹⁰ for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes.)

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Area Unique Identifier: **CO-010-027**

Route or Route Segment¹¹ Name and/or Identifier: **LWC_27_Route 2**

(Include Transportation Plan Identifier, if known, and include route number supplied by citizen information, when available.)

III. LOCATION: Refer to attached map and BLM corporate data (GIS).
List photo point references (where applicable) or reference attached photo log:

Describe:

Route 2 branches south from 318 in the middle of the polygon and heads down to private land on the south west portion of the area. The route also branches east from the middle of the unit and going into state land that is part of the eastern boundary. GIS points associated are 27-001, 27-002, 27-003, and 27-004.

IV. ROUTE CONTEXT

A. Current Purpose¹² (if any) of Route: (Examples: Rangeland/Livestock Improvements (stock tank, developed spring, reservoir, fence, corral), Inholdings (ranch, farmhouse), Mine

⁹ This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.

¹⁰ Road: An access route which has been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.

a. Improved and maintained – Actions taken physically by people to keep the road open to vehicle traffic. “Improved” does not necessarily mean formal construction. “Maintained” does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.

b. Mechanical means – Use of hand or power machinery or tools.

c. Relatively regular and continuous use – Vehicular use that has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources, access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities, or access roads to mining claims.

¹¹ If a portion of a route is found to meet the wilderness inventory road criteria (see Part III) and the remainder does not meet these criteria (e.g., a cherrystem road with a primitive route continuing beyond a certain point), identify each segment and explain the rationale for the separate findings under pertinent criteria.

Site, Concentrated Use Site (camp site), Recreation, Utilities (transmission line, telephone, pipeline), Administrative (project maintenance, communication site, vegetation treatment)).

Describe:

Route appears to be used for hunting purposes; hunting blinds were witnessed along the route. There is also a historic cabin located along the southern most portion of the route, located along the boundary with private land.

B. Right-of-Way (ROW):

4. Is there a ROW associated with this route?

Yes No Unknown **X**

5. If yes, what is the stated purpose of the ROW?

6. Is the ROW still being used for this purpose?

Yes No Unknown or N/A **X**

Explain:

III. WILDERNESS INVENTORY ROAD CRITERIA

B. Evidence of construction or improvement using mechanical means:

Yes **X** (if either A.1 *or* A.2 is checked "yes" below) No (if both A.1 *and* A.2 are checked "no" below)

1. Construction: (Is there evidence that the route or route segment was originally constructed using mechanical means?) Yes No

Examples: Paved Bladed **X** Graveled Roadside Berms Cut/Fill Other

Describe:

Route was bladed through several large sage brush patches.

¹² The purpose of a route is not a deciding factor in determining whether a route is a road for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes. The purpose of a route does provide context for factors on which such a determination may be based, particularly the question of whether maintenance of the route ensures relatively regular and continuous use. The purpose also helps to determine whether maintenance that may so far have been unnecessary to ensure such use would be approved by BLM when the need arises.

2. Improvements: (Is there evidence of improvements using mechanical means to facilitate access?) Yes No **X** If “yes”: by Hand Tools by Machine

Examples: Culverts Hardened Stream Crossings Bridges Drainage Barriers Other

Describe:

No improvements were needed for completion of the route.

B. Maintenance: (Is there evidence of maintenance that would ensure *relatively* regular and continuous use?): Yes (if either B.1 *or* B.2 is checked “yes” below) No **X** (if both B.1 *and* B.2 are checked “no” below)

3. Is there Evidence or Documentation of Maintenance using hand tools or machinery?
Yes No **X** If “yes”: by Hand Tools by Machine

Explain:

No evidence exists by either hand tools or by machine.

4. If the route or route segment is in good¹³ condition, but there is no evidence of maintenance, would mechanical maintenance with hand tools or machines be approved by BLM to meet the purpose(s) of the route in the event this route became impassable?
Yes No **X**

Explain

Route is not in good repair.

C. Relatively regular and continuous use: (Does the route or route segment ensure relatively regular and continuous use?) Yes No **X**

Describe evidence (e.g., direct, vehicles or vehicle tracks observed, or indirect, evidence of use associated with purpose of the route such as maintenance of facility that route accesses) and other rationale for whether use has occurred and will continue to occur on a *relatively* regular basis (i.e., regular and continuous use relative to the purpose(s) of the route).¹⁴

Route most likely receives most usage during hunting seasons, given the hunting blinds

¹³ Good condition would be a condition that ensures regular and continuous use relative to the purposes of the route. Consider whether the route can be clearly followed in the field over its entire course and whether all or any portion of the route contains any impediments to travel.

¹⁴ Include estimate of travel rates for the stated purposes, e.g., trips/day or week or month or season or year or even multiple years in some facility maintenance cases.

that were spotted inside the area.

IV. CONCLUSION:

Does the route or route segment¹⁵ meet the definition of a wilderness inventory road (i.e., are items III.A *and* III.B *and* III.C all checked yes)?

Yes = Wilderness Inventory Road
inventory purposes

No **X** = Not a road for wilderness

Explanation¹⁶:

Route is not maintained in accordance with Wilderness Inventory Road definitions.

Evaluators:

Cody Niehus / Recreation Intern

Date: **6-27-2013**

Ty Skoe / Recreation Intern

Date **6-27-2013**

¹⁵ If part of the route meets the wilderness inventory road definition and the remainder does not, describe the segment meeting the definition and any remaining portion not meeting the definition and why.

¹⁶ Describe and explain rationale for any discrepancies with citizen proposals.

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY

APPENDIX C – ROUTE ANALYSIS¹⁷

(Factors to consider when determining whether a route is a road¹⁸ for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes.)

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Area Unique Identifier: **CO-010-027**

Route or Route Segment¹⁹ Name and/or Identifier: **LWC_27_Route 3**

(Include Transportation Plan Identifier, if known, and include route number supplied by citizen information, when available.)

V. LOCATION: Refer to attached map and BLM corporate data (GIS).
List photo point references (where applicable) or reference attached photo log:

Describe:

Route 3 is located in the south western most region of the polygon. It branches off County Road 10 and heads north for approximately one quarter of a mile into private land. GIS points associated are 27-005 and 27-006.

VI. ROUTE CONTEXT

A. Current Purpose²⁰ (if any) of Route: (Examples: Rangeland/Livestock Improvements (stock tank, developed spring, reservoir, fence, corral), Inholdings (ranch, farmhouse), Mine

¹⁷ This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.

¹⁸ Road: An access route which has been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.

a. Improved and maintained – Actions taken physically by people to keep the road open to vehicle traffic. “Improved” does not necessarily mean formal construction. “Maintained” does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.

b. Mechanical means – Use of hand or power machinery or tools.

c. Relatively regular and continuous use – Vehicular use that has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources, access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities, or access roads to mining claims.

¹⁹ If a portion of a route is found to meet the wilderness inventory road criteria (see Part III) and the remainder does not meet these criteria (e.g., a cherrystem road with a primitive route continuing beyond a certain point), identify each segment and explain the rationale for the separate findings under pertinent criteria.

²⁰ The purpose of a route is not a deciding factor in determining whether a route is a road for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes. The purpose of a route does provide context for factors on which such a

Site, Concentrated Use Site (camp site), Recreation, Utilities (transmission line, telephone, pipeline), Administrative (project maintenance, communication site, vegetation treatment)).

Describe:

The route's current purpose is to provide access to the private land located north of the south western peninsula of the unit.

B. Right-of-Way (ROW):

7. Is there a ROW associated with this route?

Yes No Unknown **X**

8. If yes, what is the stated purpose of the ROW?

9. Is the ROW still being used for this purpose?

Yes No Unknown or N/A **X**

Explain:

III. WILDERNESS INVENTORY ROAD CRITERIA

C. Evidence of construction or improvement using mechanical means:

Yes **X** (if either A.1 *or* A.2 is checked "yes" below) No (if both A.1 *and* A.2 are checked "no" below)

1. Construction: (Is there evidence that the route or route segment was originally constructed using mechanical means?) Yes **X** No

Examples: Paved Bladed **X** Graveled Roadside Berms Cut/Fill Other

Describe:

Route was bladed along a hillside from CR 10 to the private land.

determination may be based, particularly the question of whether maintenance of the route ensures relatively regular and continuous use. The purpose also helps to determine whether maintenance that may so far have been unnecessary to ensure such use would be approved by BLM when the need arises.

2. Improvements: (Is there evidence of improvements using mechanical means to facilitate access?) Yes ☒ No If "yes": by Hand Tools by Machine

Examples: Culverts Hardened Stream Crossings Bridges Drainage ☒ Barriers Other

Describe:

At the boundary of the polygon and the private land there is a drainage crossing that was constructed.

B. Maintenance: (Is there evidence of maintenance that would ensure *relatively* regular and continuous use?): Yes ☒ (if either B.1 *or* B.2 is checked "yes" below) No (if both B.1 *and* B.2 are checked "no" below)

5. Is there Evidence or Documentation of Maintenance using hand tools or machinery?
Yes ☒ No If "yes": by Hand Tools by Machine ☒

Explain:

The drainage crossing was in excellent condition that provided safe travel across the drainage.

6. If the route or route segment is in good²¹ condition, but there is no evidence of maintenance, would mechanical maintenance with hand tools or machines be approved by BLM to meet the purpose(s) of the route in the event this route became impassable?
Yes ☒ No

Explain

Route serves as access to private land.

C. Relatively regular and continuous use: (Does the route or route segment ensure relatively regular and continuous use?) Yes ☒ No

Describe evidence (e.g., direct, vehicles or vehicle tracks observed, or indirect, evidence of use associated with purpose of the route such as maintenance of facility that route accesses) and other rationale for whether use has occurred and will continue to occur on a *relatively* regular basis (i.e., regular and continuous use relative to the purpose(s) of the route).²²

²¹ Good condition would be a condition that ensures regular and continuous use relative to the purposes of the route. Consider whether the route can be clearly followed in the field over its entire course and whether all or any portion of the route contains any impediments to travel.

²² Include estimate of travel rates for the stated purposes, e.g., trips/day or week or month or season or year or even multiple years in some facility maintenance cases.

IV. CONCLUSION:

Does the route or route segment²³ meet the definition of a wilderness inventory road (i.e., are items III.A *and* III.B *and* III.C all checked yes)?

Yes **X** = Wilderness Inventory Road
inventory purposes

No = Not a road for wilderness

Explanation²⁴:

Route is used regularly to access private land, and is maintained to ensure safety of traveling the route.

Evaluators:

Cody Niehus / Recreation Intern

Date: **6-27-2013**

Ty Skoe / Recreation Intern

Date **6-27-2013**

²³ If part of the route meets the wilderness inventory road definition and the remainder does not, describe the segment meeting the definition and any remaining portion not meeting the definition and why.

²⁴ Describe and explain rationale for any discrepancies with citizen proposals.

27-01



27-03



27-02



27-04



Scenic



Scenic 1

